

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033807

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 4250 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ISLAMABAD  
LONDON NATO CINCEUR CINCUSAFE DEPTARMY FEBRUARY 19TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 4250

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, UK, FR, PK  
SUBJECT: UK DIPLOMAT'S VIEW OF FRANCO/PAKISTANI  
EXCHANGES CONCERNING ARMS

1. UK FIRST SECRETARY RENWICK GAVE EMBASSY OFFICER  
THE FOLLOWING AS UK VIEW HERE OF THE STATE OF FRENCH/  
PAKISTANI DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING ARMS. HE SAID VIEW  
WAS BASED ON FRENCH AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC  
AND MILITARY SOURCES. FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER HAS  
GAINED GOF ACCEPTANCE OF HIS VIEW THAT FRANCE SHOULD  
BE FREE TO SELL ARMS TO PAKISTAN IF PAKISTANIS HAVE  
MONEY TO PAY FOR THEM, HE IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT  
PAKISTAN DOES NOT AND WILL NOT HAVE THE MONEY FOR  
SUBSTANTIAL DEALS. THE RUMORS OF THE SALE OF A PLANT  
TO PRODUCE MIRAGES IN PAKISTAN FOR THE ARABS ARE  
UNFOUNDED. PAKISTAN DOES NOT HAVE THE FINACIAL  
RESOURCES, AND ARAB OIL PRODUCERS WILL NOT PROVIDE  
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THEM. IN ANY CASE, THRE FRENCH WOULD WISH TO PRODUCE

THE MIRAGES THEMSELVES FOR SALE TO THE ARABS. THE OTHER RUMOR THAT ABU DHABI MIGHT BUY MIRAGES FOR REPEAT FOR PAKISTAN DOES NOT SEEM RELIABLE IN LIGHT OF UK EXPERIENCE OF ABU DHABI'S POLICIES. ABU DHABI MIGHT OBTAIN PAKISTANI HELP IN USING THE AIRCRAFT IN RETURN FOR PAYMENTS AND A PROMISE THAT "IN CASE OF NEED" (A NEED DETERMINED BY ABU DHABI), PAKISTAN MIGHT USE THE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, ABU DHABI'S GENEROSITY WOULD NOT EXTEND TO PROCURING AIRCRAFT OVER WHICH PAKISTAN WOULD EXERCISE CONTROL. UK THOUGHT THAT THE RUMORS OF PAKISTAN ARMS DEALS WERE BASICALLY PART OF BHUTTO'S BLUKE.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE SPECULATION TO THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE AGREED WITH RENWICK'S VIEWS THAT ABU DHABI WOULD NOT ACTUALLY PURCHASE MIRAGES FOR PAKISTAN. WE DO NOT DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PAKISTANIS COULD BE USED TO FLY AIRCRAFT AND EVENTUALLY TO TRAIN ABU DHABI PILOTS. PAKISTAN IS KNOWN TO HAVE MADE ITS SURPLUS PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS AVAILABLE TO OTHER MUSLIM STATES. IN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH ADDITIONAL NATIONS PURCHASING MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, PAKISTANI PILOTS ARE AKFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROFICIENCY WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS EARNING THE GOODWILL INHERENT IN ASSISTING THEIR BROTHER MUSLIMS. FINALLY, THE PROGRAM DOES PROVIDE THE PAKISTANIS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPECT RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE IN TIME OF NEED. WE THEREFORE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AIRCRAFT OF OTHER MUSLIM STATES, SUCH AS ABU DHABI, COULD BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING PAKISTANI MILITARY RESOURCES IN CASE OF CONFLICT.  
IRWIN UNQUOTE RUSH

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